
To prevent and treat disease and disability; to promote healthy lifestyles; and to protect and promote the health and quality of our environment.

MEDIA ADVISORY

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HOBBLE CREEK NEIGHBORHOOD KIDS & PARENTS TO TAKE PART IN “WALKING SCHOOL BUS”

WHAT: As part of Safe Kids Week 2004, the kick off event for the Hobbles Creek Neighborhood Walking School Bus is May 5, 2004. Kids and parents will form four “walking school buses” to Cecil D. Andrus Elementary School on four Walking Wednesdays: May 5, May 12, May 19 and May 26. Lead parent volunteers, wearing bright orange safety vests and carrying orange safety flags, will each supervise a group of neighborhood children on their walk to school.

The Hobbles Creek Neighborhood includes an interconnected system of bike and walking paths and lies alongside Hobbles Creek Park at the edge of the school. Although some children walk or ride their bikes, many are dropped off from vehicles by their parents or other caregivers. The Walking School Buses provide a safe and supervised way for children to walk to school.

A \$1000 grant from Wellness in the Rockies has included the purchase of flashing buttons for each walking child.

WHEN: Wednesday, May 5, 2004
8:15 – 8:30 a.m. – Kids will assemble in their walking groups
8:30 – 8:45 a.m. – Walking School Buses will proceed to Cecil D. Andrus School

WHERE: Hobbles Creek Neighborhood – Southeast of the Eagle Road/ Chinden Blvd. intersection
Cecil D. Andrus Elementary School, 6100 Park Meadow Dr., Boise

WHO: The event is sponsored by Cecil D. Andrus PTA, Hobbles Creek Neighborhood Association, Idaho Smart Growth, and Safe Kids Treasure Valley Coalition, which works to teach kids about safe pedestrian behaviors and encourages parents to walk with their children.

WHY: A national poll, conducted by the Washington, DC-based Surface Transportation Policy Project, released April 1, 2003 showed that the majority of children do not currently walk or bicycle to school. Just 18 percent of parents report that their children ever walk or bicycle to school. In contrast, 71 percent of adults reported walking or bicycling to school in their own childhood. The top three reasons parents reported for why children are currently not walking: that it was too far; there was too much traffic; or they feared abduction of their child.